

# SIMPSON RAILS AT ALIBI WITNESSES

## Angers Neighbors Of Henry Stevens By Trick Questions

(Continued from Page 3)

Q. Why were you at the house at 9 o'clock Friday morning? A. I washed the breakfast dishes and went down in the laundry to wash his clothes.

Q. Did he take laundry away that day? A. In the afternoon.

Q. Did it rain that Thursday? A. I don't remember.

Q. Was it dark when you left the house? A. Left at 7 o'clock. It got dark at 8.

### Wasn't Close Enough

Q. It was not too dark to see Mr. Stevens on the beach; who was with him? A. I was not close enough to see him.

Q. Have you been in hiding? Don't you know that since last August policemen and detectives have been looking for you? A. No.

Forcing Mrs. Evanson to admit that she had talked to reporters last August and told them the story she gave on the stand today, the prosecutor reminded her that a few



Willie Stevens Rev. E. W. Hall

moments before she swore she had talked to nobody.

Q. How long after the murder did you work at the Stevens' home? A. Until Christmas.

Q. Is it true that neither Mr. nor Mrs. Stevens talked to you about the murder? A. Yes.

Q. Did you cook supper every night the week of the murder? A. I think I did.

"Why were you away two weeks in this last October?" Case asked his witness on re-direct examination.

"I was sick."

Q. You have testified that Henry Stevens left Lavellette on a Saturday. When did he return? A. The following Thursday.

Case brought out that Mrs. Evanson, standing in the Stevens kitchen, could easily see Mr. Stevens helping the Wilson women in his car.

"You have a daughter?" Simpson asked. "Haven't the Stevens assisted you in maintaining her since the murder?"

"No," the old lady answered as she left the stand.

Howard Price, a West Philadelphia business man with a cottage in Lavellette, was called.

Price testified that Henry Stevens had passed within nine feet of him



BARBARA TOUGH

on the beach at 9.55 on the murder night.

Price was positive of the time. He fixed the date by an automobile accident he had had on September 10, 1922, and papers he received concerning the complaint he made to his insurance company on September 15.

Senator Simpson on cross-examination forced Price to admit he could not remember the hour he had received the insurance papers, although he was positive as to the exact minute he saw Stevens on the murder night.

The prosecutor lessened the value of the witness's testimony when Price, under his questioning, said that the only person he recognized on the beach September 14 was Stevens, although he knew many in the little fishing community.

### Said Nothing Previously

Also Price admitted that Thursday, September 14, was the only Thursday in the month that he was in Lavellette. That despite the fact his testimony would have been extremely valuable to Henry Stevens in 1922 he said nothing of seeing him on the murder night until this year.

Mrs. Arthur Applegate, wife of the bluefish catcher, followed Price on the stand.

She was with her husband and little son on the beach at 7 o'clock the evening of September 14. Henry Stevens was there at that time and at 10 o'clock or a little after, she testified.

Q. How do you fix the time? A. When we got home my husband said it was twenty-five minutes of eleven.

Justice Parker interrupted to ask Mrs. Applegate if she usually kept her little boy up to that hour.

### Saw Stevens Weigh Fish

Senator Case asked the witness of any incident during the time she was on the beach. She told of her husband catching the six-

pound bluefish and seeing Henry Stevens weigh it.

Mrs. Applegate was furious as Prosecutor Simpson sought to trip her in cross-examination. The witness told of Nathaniel Palzer, of defense counsel, calling on her husband on a date following Applegate's affidavit to Jersey City detectives last August. In this affidavit Applegate changed the date of the bluefish weighing to Friday, September 15.

The state investigators called her husband a "damn liar, a perjurer" and informed him he would be locked up.

Arthur Applegate followed his wife on the stand. A lean, hardened carpenter, he looked the years he has lived in the seaside town.

### Gave Him Hook

Q. Where were you on September 14, 1922? A. Fishing on the beach with my wife and child.

Q. Tell us what you saw of Henry Stevens that evening. A. I saw him after supper. Mr. Stevens gave me a hook. He changed it for me and put it on my line. With that hook I caught a six-pound bluefish. He weighed it for me with a pair of small scales.

Q. Did you see him again that evening? A. Yes, I said "good night" to him about 10 o'clock. I had seen him a number of times that evening.

Q. Did anything happen the following week to impress that night on your mind? A. Yes, I was bothered by reporters.

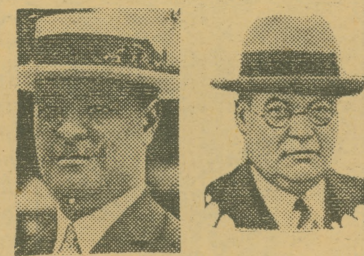
Q. You said you saw newspapers that week that connected Henry Stevens with the murder. Have you at any time made statements to the prosecution? A. Yes.

Q. When? A. On August 31, 1926, to Capt. Walsh and Burke. I made a number of statements in 1922.

### Tears at Witness

Simpson tore into Applegate on cross-examination. The majority of the alibi witnesses had told of the bluefish incident taking place on the night of September 14, and to break Applegate on the date of the catch was all-important to the state.

"You respect an oath?" Simpson asked.



J. J. Underwood John A. Grant

Q. September 17 you were put under oath by the grand jury? A. Yes.

Q. Didn't you swear this bluefish was caught on a Friday? A. It was the night of the murder.

Simpson thundered at the witness. He loudly rebuked a clerk



HENRY STEVENS

who was slow in finding Applegate's grand jury statement.

### Applegate Groggy

Q. Will you answer this question? You said at Toms River that the bluefish was not caught the murder night? A. I don't remember that.

Q. You said that detectives or reporters had put that night in your mind? A. I don't remember. Q. Were you asked "Did George Johnson put it in your mind?" A. I don't remember.

Applegate was groggy under the little prosecutor's attack. Case objected loudly, but vainly.

Simpson read from Applegate's testimony before the grand jury which indicted Mrs. Hall, her brothers and Henry Carpenter. The witness denied that before that body he had said he could not fix the date of the bluefish weighing as September 14.

### Denies Statement

The prosecutor read from Applegate's affidavit to Jersey City detectives on September 3. In this, Applegate could not fix the date as September 14. Again the Lavellette carpenter denied making such a statement. He even refused to admit that the signature to the affidavit was his.

Again and again Simpson asked Applegate if he had not made the statement under oath that private detectives forced the date of September 14 into his mind as the date the bluefish was caught. The prosecutor had the documents to prove the witness had made such a statement, but Applegate denied that he had.

Q. Did you ever fix the weighing of the bluefish as September 14, 1922. A. I made that statement to a number of persons.

Q. Name one of those persons? A. I can't do it.

### Talked With Defense

The prosecutor swung back to Applegate's grand jury testimony.

Q. You were taken before the grand jury September 3 and you

## Tries to Break Down Testimony About Bluefish

told them you could not fix the date the fish was caught? A. You are the man who asked the questions. I have a little sympathy in my heart, and that's more than you've got.

Q. After you came here did anybody for the defense talk with you? A. Yes.

Q. Did you sign any written statements? A. No.

"Where did you give a written statement to the prosecution in August?" Case asked.

"At my house, to Walsh and Burke."

Q. At what hour was your statement taken on August 31? A. In the afternoon.

### Called a Liar

Q. On September 3 you received another summons to appear before the authorities. Another statement was made by you? A. Yes, to Inspector Underwood.

Q. Did you take an oath there? A. No.

Q. Were you called any names



Harry Walsh Mrs. Eleanor Mills

there? A. Yes. I was called a "damned liar" by Mr. Underwood.

"Weren't you in Sheriff Grant's home? Didn't I ask you the questions? Wasn't there a woman stenographer there?" Simpson snapped.

"You were not there when Underwood swore at me."

"Weren't there two sets of questions asked you?" Case asked.

"I was taken to the courtroom at Toms River. That was where Underwood swore at me."

"Then I was taken over to Sheriff Grant's home, where Mr. Simpson questioned me."

### Saw Stevens on Beach

John Piard, a Philadelphian, with a Lavellette summer home, was called.

Q. Where were you on September 14, 1922? A. I came to Lavellette from Philadelphia at 5.45 p. m. Thursday evening.

Q. Where did you see Henry Stevens that evening? A. I saw him on the beach, fishing in front of Dr. Wilson's cottage, just before dark.

Q. Did you see him the next day? A. Yes, I saw him at 7 o'clock in

(Continued on Page 17)

## MACK AND MARX—

## The Golden Rule

## By Sem Hitt

